in rural areas of Ajmer district, are as Under:

Exchange	Pending applications
Pranheda	2
Ghogra	6
Kadel	2

These are long distance connections of about 9 Km distance in case of Ghogra and 11 Km. in case of Kadel. These connections are planned to be provided during 1997-98. Line and wire material is being procured.

(d) There are 11 places where 10-15 persons have already deposited forms. The telephone services are planned to be provided during 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[English]

E.D. Employees

3075. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether the committee appointed to study the working conditions of E.D. Staff in the Postal Department has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) One man Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Charanjit Talwar, retired Judge of Delhi High Court has been set up to examine the conditions of services and emoluments and other facilities available to the Extra-Departmental Agents. The tenure of the Justice Talwar Committee has been extended on existing terms and conditions for a further period from 1.10.96 to 15.2.97 or three months from the date of submission of the report of the VIth Pay Commission, whichever is later.

Registration of SCs/STs & OBCs

3076. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons and persons belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes registered with the employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu as on October, 1996;

(b) the number of persons belonging to above categories provided employment during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the quota fixed for the above categories has been filled up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The number of Physically Handicapped, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Job-seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu is indicated below :

	Categories	No. on Live Register (in thousands)
1.	Physically Handicapped (as on 31st December, 1995) (latest available)	47.2
2.	Scheduled Caste (as on 30th June, 1995) (latest available)	738.5
3.	Scheduled Tribe (as on 30th June, 1995) (latest available)	11.8

Information relating to Other Backward Classes are not maintained.

(b) The number of Physically Handicapped, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Job-seekers placed in employment by the employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu during the year 1993, 1994 and 1995 is indicated below :

(in thousands)

Year	Number placed in employment		
	Physically Handicapped	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1993	1.1	5.2	0.2
1994	0.9	2.5	0.1
1995	0.9	1.3*	0.1*

* Related to Jan.-June, 1995.

(c) and (d). As per the demand of employers, the Employment Exchanges submit the list of handicapped candidates as also the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for filling up to the vacancies reserved for them.

Decline of Workers in Gulf Country

3077. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of persons going to Gulf countries for work from the country has been continuously declining;